Special package of AI for increasing revenue

*236. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the special package proposed by Air India and Indian Airlines for various destinations of the world to increase revenue in the coming months;

(b) if not, whether Government would consider to evolve such package meeting the challenges of foreign airlines like British Airways to increase the revenue; and

(c) if so, the period for which it would be valid?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) At present Air India and Indian Airlines do not have any special package for any foreign destination. However, Air India was offering a free ticket for a companion on a full paid ticket for travel out of India. Indian Airlines have incentive scheme called Desh Videsh. A person who qualifies under this scheme could also be eligible to buy a package in Singapore under certain conditions.

(b) and (c) Such challenges are constantly assessed to evolve appropriate strategies for countering these. This is a continuing process.

Public sector deficit

•237. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an International Credit Rating Agency has pointed Indian Government's inability to rein-in its huge public sector-deficit and warned that the country is heading towards a debt trap;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction in this regard;

(c) the details of financial position of Government as on date; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to clear the debt trap?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (d) In December 2001 one international credit rating agency viz. Moody's Investors Service affirmed its rating outlook on Government's foreign currency debt as stable, the outlook on Government's domestic debt rating was indicated to be negative. This was based on their concern about the status of public finances.

The revised estimates of Government's fiscal deficit as a percentage of GDP for the fiscal year 2001-2002 is 5.7%. For the year 2002-2003 this figure is projected to be 5.3% of GDP. Government has initiated several measures to improve the fiscal situation of the Central and States.

FDI proposals for Jammu and Kashmir

238. DR. KARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposals for Foreign Direct Investments in Jammu and Kashmir have been submitted during the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's decisions thereon; and

(c) the details of the FDIs made in the State during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) has not received any Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) proposal for Jammu & Kashmir during the current financial year (upto 21.2.2002);

(b) Does not arise;

(c) During the last three financial years, 1998-99 to 2000-2001, FIPB had not received any FDI proposals for Jammu & Kashmir.